

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Withdrawn) A method for securing a graft ligament in a bone tunnel, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) forming a first bone tunnel in a bone, and forming a second bone tunnel in the same bone, said second bone tunnel being transverse to, and intersecting, said first bone tunnel, said second bone tunnel having first and second portions extending from said first bone tunnel;

(2) positioning first and second ends of a flexible member within said first bone tunnel such that said first and second ends are located adjacent to the intersection of said second transverse bone tunnel with said first bone tunnel, and extracting the first and second ends out of the first and second portions of the second bone tunnel, respectively, and positioning the graft ligament over a portion of said flexible member extending out of said first bone tunnel; and

(3) pulling said ends of said flexible member so as to draw said graft ligament into said first bone tunnel.

2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of positioning a crosspin over said flexible member and in said second transverse bone tunnel so that said graft ligament is looped over and supported by said crosspin.

3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein said second step comprises the sub-steps of:

pushing said first and second ends of said flexible member up said first bone tunnel;

attaching said first and second ends of said flexible member to pulling members extending into said first bone tunnel from said first and second portions of said second bone tunnel, respectively; and

pulling said first and second ends of said flexible member through said first and second portions of said second transverse bone tunnel, respectively.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1 wherein said second step comprises the sub-steps of:

pushing said first and second ends of said flexible member up said first bone tunnel;

attaching said first end of said flexible member to a pulling member extending into said first bone tunnel through said first portion of said second bone tunnel;

pulling said first end of said flexible member through said first portion of said second transverse bone tunnel;

attaching said second end of said flexible member to said pulling member extending into said first bone tunnel through said second portion of said second bone tunnel; and

pulling said second end of said flexible member through said second portion of said second transverse bone tunnel.

5. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for securing a graft ligament in a bone tunnel, said apparatus comprising:

a flexible member delivery device having a suture holder for carrying both ends of a flexible member into the bone tunnel, said delivery device being cannulated for receiving an arthroscope within said cannulated delivery device.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for securing a graft ligament in a first bone tunnel, the system comprising:

a flexible member for positioning the graft ligament in the first bone tunnel, said flexible member having a first closed loop at a first end thereof, and a second closed loop at a second end thereof, said flexible member being configurable into a generally U-shape with the first and second closed loops being thereby positionable adjacent each other and aligned with each other in the first bone tunnel;

a delivery device having an end for releasably and simultaneously supporting said the first and second loops of said flexible member in adjacency and in alignment with each other, and positioning said the first and second loops in said the first bone tunnel and in a second bone tunnel extending transversely to and intersecting the first bone tunnel; and

a pulling member having an end insertable into the second bone tunnel for engaging and withdrawing a selected one of the ends of said flexible member from said delivery device when said delivery device is positioned in said the first and second bone tunnels and for pulling the selected end of said flexible member through a portion of a- the second bone tunnel which intersects, and extends transversely to, the first- mentioned bone tunnel.

7. (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 6 wherein said ends of said flexible member are looped.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 wherein ~~said~~ the end of said delivery device comprises hook means for releasably supporting both of ~~said~~ the first and second loops.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 wherein ~~said~~ the end of said delivery device comprises first and second hooks for supporting ~~said~~ the first and second loops respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 wherein said delivery device comprises a suture grasping supporting device at said the end thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 further comprising an arthroscope associated with said delivery device to aid in the visualization of positioning and grasping said the first and second ends of said flexible member.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12 wherein said delivery device is cannulated and said arthroscope is disposed within said cannulated delivery device.

14. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 6 wherein the end of said pulling member comprises a hook.

15. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 6 wherein the end of said pulling member comprises a suture grasping device.

16. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 6 wherein said pulling member is adapted to withdraw either end of said flexible member from said delivery device.

17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 further comprising a second pulling member, and said first-mentioned pulling member and said second pulling member are adapted ~~to be used~~ to first withdraw ~~said~~ the first and second loops from said delivery device and then extract ~~said~~ the first and second ~~opposite~~ ends of said flexible member from opposite ends of ~~said~~ the second bone tunnel.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for securing a graft ligament in a first bone tunnel, the system comprising:

a flexible member for positioning the graft ligament in the first bone tunnel, said flexible member having a first closed loop at a first end thereof and a second closed loop at a second end thereof;

a delivery device for inserting ~~said~~ the first and second loops in ~~said~~ the first bone tunnel, said delivery device having means at one end for releaseably and simultaneously supporting ~~said~~ the first and second loops adjacent to one another and in alignment with each other;

a pulling member having an end insertable into the second bone tunnel for engaging and for withdrawing a selected one of ~~said~~ the loops from said delivery device when said delivery device is positioned in ~~said~~ the first bone tunnel and for pulling ~~said~~ the selected end of said flexible member through a portion of a second bone tunnel which intersects, and extends transversely to, the first ~~first-mentioned~~ bone tunnel.